

# Cuban-Haitian Report Shows Much Work Yet to Be Done

The Community Committee on Cuban-Haitian Refugees has reported that although it has provided resettlement services to 159 Cuban and Haitian persons since last June, a number of persons still need housing, a great many are still unemployed and more than half of one group still have not enrolled in English classes.

Maurice Tierney, head of diocesan Catholic Charities and coordinator of the ecumenical community committee said that nine refugees still need housing and that 67 persons, including some Asian refugees, who are considered employable are not as yet holding jobs.

Tierney stated that as of Nov. 17, "More than half the Cuban refugees were not enrolled in English as a second language."

Tierney also summarized the committee's work since first being convened by Bishop Matthew H. Clark on



Photo by Joan M. Smith

Cardinal Mooney students were just as happy to give as Bishop Matthew H. Clark was to receive Cardinal Mooney's \$2,000 contribution to the Cuban-Haitian Refugee Fund. The money was raised through the school's Action for People Association sponsored paper drive. Presenting the gift are from left: Ann Marie Moriarty, co-chairperson of drive; Mary Hofmann, AFPA president; Amy Sommers, AFPA treasurer; Elaine Norton, AFPA secretary; and Pete Stubler.

June 13. He reported that funds raised during a campaign conducted in

dependence Day weekend amount to \$46,623.

Those monies are budgeted as follows: \$3,500 to the United States Catholic Conference; \$10,780 for assisting Haitian refugees; \$32,343 for helping Cuban refugees.

As of Oct. 31, however, the committee has only spent \$14,079. The breakdowns were reported as: \$4,157, assistance to Haitians; \$2,470, assistance to Cubans; \$3,500 to the USCC; \$3,952 for staffing.

Tierney also reported on services rendered by the committee through Church World Service, Catholic Family Center, Lutheran Immigration Relief Services, and representatives of the Cuban and Haitian communities.

"The biggest problem revealed by (those) figures to date is the need for greater employment opportunity for Cubans," Tierney said.

Tierney said that the committee still views as "problems, needs and issues," such items as "job sites for employable but unemployed refugees; anticipation of reunification efforts in 1981, 1982, 1983; political action to assure permanent refugee status for Cubans-Haitians."

Tierney concluded:

"The spiritual and corporate works of mercy are exemplified fully by the individual members and the members as a whole in the Cuban-Haitian Committee process. We thank everybody for being Good Samaritans and call on all to sustain the efforts until the committee is satisfied it has done its job."

## Insights In Liturgy

By Pam Schaeffer



## Can You Hear the Drumbeat?

Amid the glitter and noise, the bustle of merchants and shoppers in the stores and streets, the exhaustion and frustration of purchasing gifts and preparing appetizing delicacies, and the babble of advertisements in the media and cash register "jingle bells," in a culture that seeks recognition in busyness and profits — amid all this flurry of activity the muffled sound of a distant drummer calls us to a different beat: Advent.

Is it a sign of our times? People being heedlessly propelled head-long into events without realizing the satisfaction of savoring the road along the way? I hope not, but this seems to be the case, especially when we view the pattern our lives take on during the weeks just prior to Christmas. Before Advent is half over our enthusiasm is far spent. As the sun rises on Christmas morning, exhausted, harried people are left feeling and saying, "Is this all there is?" "There must be a better way!"

And there is!

It is a drumbeat: a slow, persistent rhythm that calls us to celebrate Advent in all its complexities. The images and dimensions of Advent offered to Christian believers during these four weeks are too rich to understand if they are hurried through.

Who can hurry by the prophet Isaiah? With Isaiah we are affirming our faith in the fact that the seeds of peace and justice are at work in our midst: that nations will hammer their swords into plowshares (1st Sunday), that calf and lion cub

will feed together with a little child to guide them (2nd Sunday), that the signs of the kingdom are in our midst for our eyes and our ears are being opened and we walk although lame (3rd Sunday), and that the Lord himself shall give us a sign, and shall name him Immanuel (4th Sunday).

How can we hurry by and ignore the cry of John the Baptist? John, who begs us to repent and believe. John, who calls us to conversion, a daily conversion, a gradual process of dying and rising. John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, who preaches the good news of the One who is to come.

Mary, too, helps us savor the mystery of Advent, not once again to focus our attention simply on the historical fact of the birth of Jesus, but to help us realize the true nature of the Christian community whose role it is to make Christ present to the world and to produce the works of light until his return: One should not rush by the person of the Mother of our Lord.

The rhythm of these weeks before Christmas is a slower rhythm. It asks us to dance to a different tune. A beat that is in conflict, especially cultural conflict. Advent begs us to recognize the fact that the world has altered the feast of Christmas and adapted it to its own rhythm. We should not allow ourselves to be led dizzily along. More than ever, we need an unhurried Advent. We need to be refreshed by a slower pace and led by the sounds of the distant drummer to a growing awareness of our God-given identity and Christian vocation in a largely unbelieving world, teaching us what to live for, work for and listen for.

Can you hear the drumbeat...?

## Shults Lectures Features Dr. Muto

Dr. Susan A. Muto, director of the Institute of Formative Spirituality at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, will be the speaker at this year's Otto A. Shults Institute on Spirituality, Dec.

4 and 5 at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Dr. Muto, who teaches graduate courses in formative spirituality, will discuss the single life, and the integration of all aspects of that life.

She holds a BA in journalism and English as well as an MA and a PhD in English literature.



DR. MUTO

## Ithaca Triduum Dec. 3, 4, 5

Ithaca — Immaculate Conception Parish's annual Triduum in preparation for its patronal feast will be Wednesday, Dec. 3, Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Conducting the program will be Father Lewis A. Springmann, OP, of St. Dominic's Priory, Washington, D.C.

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